



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Public Library

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**Library to Celebrate 75th Anniversary of Dashiell Hammett's Novel
"The Maltese Falcon" with Exhibit from Oct. 3-16**

Author's Granddaughter to Discuss Book on Oct. 15 at Central Library

SAN DIEGO – In celebration of the 75th anniversary of Dashiell Hammett's classic, noir crime novel "The Maltese Falcon," the City of San Diego Public Library will host a special exhibition that will include rare and never-before-displayed items. Since its first publication in 1930, "The Maltese Falcon" has become recognized as a literary classic and, in its film adaptation, as one of the greatest movies of all time. This exhibit celebrates the role of the novel in our literary tradition and in American culture.

The exhibition will be on display from Oct. 3-16 on the first and second floors of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

The items in the exhibit trace sources from Hammett's real life and threads from his early fiction that he drew upon for "The Maltese Falcon." The exhibit also demonstrates how broadly the novel was disseminated to audiences throughout the world and the separate lives Hammett's characters assumed in the movies, on radio, in newspapers and in advertisements.

In the last 75 years, the novel has been published in at least 36 countries, in at least 76 editions—from China to Czechoslovakia, Sweden to South Korea, and Brazil to Bulgaria and the Basque provinces. With the exception of a brief period in the 1950s, the novel has been continuously in print for all of its 75 years; better than 4.5 million copies have changed hands.

Julie Rivett, Hammett's granddaughter, will be at the Central Library on Oct. 15, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. to discuss "The Maltese Falcon" and its place in American culture. A screening of film version of "The Maltese Falcon," starring Humphrey Bogart, will follow the talk by Ms. Rivett. The discussion and screening will be in the third floor auditorium.

"The Maltese Falcon" is one of only three works to win places on both the Modern Library's 100 Best Novels list (No. 56) and the American Film Institute's 100 Greatest Movies list (No. 23). The John Huston-directed film was nominated for three academy awards: best picture, best screenplay, and best supporting actor for Sydney Greenstreet.

Even after 75 years, it seems, there is no end of appreciation (and no shortage of readers) for this singular work called by Ross Macdonald "the best mystery ever written" – a story so complex, he thought, "you can go on rereading it and finding things in it for the rest of your life."

For more information, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>. The programs are free and open to the public.

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